



From the Director of Victim Services

Since 1981, National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) has challenged the Nation to confront and remove barriers to achieving justice for all victims of crime. The 40th anniversary of NCVRW will be commemorated April 18–24, 2021. This week is dedicated to learn about victimization, the effect victimization has on individuals, families, friends and the community, and to promote laws, policies, and programs to help victims of crime. Every year,

thousands of communities across the nation honor the dedication of those before us that established victim rights and renew commitment to guarantee that all victims have the rights and services they need to recover from crime. This year's theme—**Support Victims. Build Trust. Engage Communities**—emphasizing the importance of leveraging community support to help victims of crime.

The Tennessee Board of Parole (TBOP), Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI), Tennessee Department of Correction (TDOC), and the Tennessee Rehabilitative Initiative in Correction (TRICOR) will showcase a series of videos highlighting victim coordinators and victim services agencies across the state. The videos will begin with an introduction from each department's leaders followed by victim coordinator/agencies throughout the state. The series will end with a conclusion video by the National Crime Victims' Rights Week committee members.

Be sure to check out all of the above mentioned agencies websites and social media pages to view the video series!

Tamika Dobbins



March 2021

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Victim Services Mission

To support victims, their families, and the laws that protect their rights, while utilizing recognized principles of offender behavioral change to help reduce the risk of repeat criminal behavior.

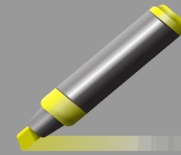
Victim Services Provides:

- Information regarding the status of offenders in prison with felony convictions
- Registration for victim notification
- Assistance with threats, unwanted calls/correspondence from an offender

Victim Services Activities:

- Community education programs
- Coordination with the Board of Parole, Attorney General's Office, and the Tennessee District Attorney General's Office to respond to victims' concerns
- Education to TDOC staff to increase awareness of victims' issues
- Collaboration with other victim advocates

Victims Services Highlights....Let's meet



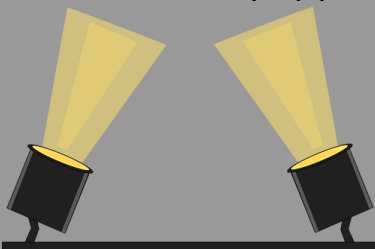
Lizzie Rice is a DOH (Department of Health) Program Specialist with the Tennessee Coalition, focusing on primary prevention of sexual assault. In her current position she conducts statewide trainings on sexual assault prevention & bystander intervention as well as chairing the Coalition's statewide Sexual Assault Prevention Committee. Previously, she worked in the Coalition's Sexual Assault Legal Clinic where she worked directly with victim/survivors of sexual & domestic assault.



Fayona Pitts is a Probation Parole Manager (PPM) with TDOC from District 40. She is a proud native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She obtained her B.S. in Criminal Justice (2002) from Southern University. Recently she received her Master's Degree in Criminal Justice (2020) from Bethel University. Prior to TDOC her career predates to corrections in various states such as Colorado and Alaska where she served as both a correctional officer and case manager for the State and Federal prisons. Under TDOC she has held

several roles as a caseload carrying officer, Program Liaison, Housing Coordinator, Intake Specialist, and Victim Coordinator for D40 and D41. It is my passion to work and serve the community by providing effective community supervision. I enjoy working with Victim

services because it is rewarding to know that you can provide comfort and support to any victim by assisting them along the way during their process.



Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE)

Tennessee Department of Correction Victim Services has been diligently working to implement the Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) service. VINE is the nation's leading victim notification network. It allows survivors, victims of crime, and other concerned citizens to access timely and reliable information about offenders or criminal cases in U.S. jails and prisons. Victims can register to receive automated notifications via email, text, or phone call, or check custody status information online at any time. VINE can be accessed at vinelink.com, the online portal for VINE. The VINELink Mobile App is the on-the-go version of VINE that lets you access vital information right from your mobile device. The VINELink Mobile App is available for iOS and Android devices and is completely free for users. Toll-free phone support from the Appriss Customer First Center is available 24/7/365 for callers who need help locating an offender, registering for notifications, or accessing victim services in their area. Over 200 languages are available via live operator support.

In 2017, Appriss, launched an enhanced platform with new features and a more intuitive user experience. The Enhanced VINE service leverages technology to provide a refined user experience and improve access to services for victims of crime. Some of the new benefits include:

- Service Provider Directory: Less than 1 out of 10 victims reportedly get the professional help they need. To bridge this gap, Appriss designed a nationwide Service Provider Directory. The Service Provider Directory enables victims to locate appropriate service providers using a self-guided workflow.
- Offender Watch List: Bookmark offenders to a personalized 'Watch List.'
- Contacts List: Save preferred service providers to your VINE account contacts list.
- Interactive Voice Response (IVR) Technology: Search for offenders using advanced voice and keypad technology.
- "Quick Escape" Button: One click will immediately redirect you from the VINE website to google.com

The county jails in Tennessee currently use VINE for notifications; once TDOC is implemented, it will allow for a more seamless notification process. Be on the lookout for more information about this new service as things continue to develop.



TDOC Central Office Monthly Stats

Telephone Calls	January	Notifications Mailed	January
Phone calls Received/Returned	92	Registrations/Voice	113
Parties Registered for Notifications (phone/mail/fax/email)	130	Movement	47
Harassment/Threats/No Contact	10	Advance Release	882
Referrals	26	Final Release *	32
Release/Parole Inquiry	12	Death	10
Other	44	Other	1

Announcements



The Criminal Injuries Compensation Program is offering training to those who advocate on behalf of victims in Tennessee. The training, which will provide participating advocates necessary resources and information to assist crime victims in utilizing the program, will be virtual and there are three opportunities to participate.

Individuals may participate through WebEx with a computer internet connection or by phone. The webinar will be one hour in length.

Who should attend: Victim advocates who directly serve victims of crime on a daily basis.

Topics to be addressed include:

- Benefits and guidelines of the program
- Application process
- Appeal process
- Procedures regarding the appropriate documentation of a claim application

Attendance certificates will be provided to those attendees who sign in to WebEx via email and complete the session.

An email with the link to join the webinar will be sent in advance of the training to the address you provide.

If you have any questions, you may reach us at Criminal.Injury@tn.gov. You can also find additional resources for victim advocates at [Criminal Injuries Compensation](#).

Please register as soon as possible for one of the webinar sessions below.

TUESDAY

April 20, 2021

Webinar via WebEx

Workshop: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m., CT

THURSDAY

May 20, 2021

Webinar via WebEx

Workshop: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m., CT

WEDNESDAY

June 16, 2021

Webinar via WebEx

Workshop: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m., CT



National Crime Victims' Rights Week April 18–24, 2021

SUPPORT VICTIMS. BUILD TRUST. ENGAGE COMMUNITIES.

*You, your family, and friends are invited to the
Davidson County 2021 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Ceremony*

Sunday, April 18, 2021
Fifty Forward
174 Rains Avenue
Nashville, TN 37203

Program will begin at 2:00 PM

You are invited to join us in honoring and remembering those whose lives have been impacted by violent crime. Whether you are a survivor, care about a survivor, work in the field, or just want to show your support, your presence is welcomed.

Though our event will be in-person, due to the continued concerns around COVID-19, we have set parameters in place based on CDC guidelines to protect everyone's safety.

DRIVE IN AND SIT IN OR BY YOUR CAR: Once in the lot, our parking attendants will be available to guide you to your spot. We ask that you bring chairs in the event weather permits people to sit by their cars. *Additionally, you are invited to decorate your car with inspirational sayings or other encouraging and meaningful messages. If your life has been impacted by homicide, please feel free to honor your loved one.*

VIRTUAL OPTION: We invite anyone who would prefer a virtual program to join us on facebook.com/remember.crime.survivors to view the program.

PLEASE VISIT our Facebook page (facebook.com/remember.crime.survivors), the week leading up to Crime Victims' Rights Week and during Crime Victims' Rights Week to see survivors share their thoughts about their victimization.

Though we are unable to display our homicide boards this year, if you would like your loved one included in the future, please submit a photo of him/her by sending a 5 x 7 photo with your loved one's name, DOB, and DOD to: Mackenzie Britt, District Attorney's Office, 222 2nd Ave North, Washington Square Building, Suite 500, Nashville, TN 37201. We apologize, but we will be unable to return pictures.

For additional information:

Valerie Craig at (615) 390-5202 or valerie.craig@tnvoicesforvictims.org

Mackenzie Britt at (615) 862-5500 ext. 70036 or Amy Griffith at (615) 862-7773

ADA accommodations contact James Gray @ 862-8400.



**National Crime Victims'
Rights Week**

**April 18–24,
2021**

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS EVENT

District Attorney General James B. Dunn invites you to participate in honoring and remembering victims of violent crime. Due to the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic we will not be able to have our normal in person ceremony. This year we will be creating a photo banner to display in the memory garden. We invite you to submit a high-resolution photo of you or your loved one with the name(s) as you prefer it listed. Please email your photo to kdhudson@tndagc.org General Dunn would like for you to come to the Cocke County Courthouse lawn the week of April 18-24, 2021 to view the photo banner and take a moment to reminisce at the victim's tree and memory garden. When you visit the memory garden, we encourage you to take a photo and submit it to our Facebook group. If you are not a member of that group, please submit your name as it is listed on Facebook and one of the administrators will add you to the private group. We look forward to the day when we will be able to gather in person to honor all victims of violent crime. It is very important that all photos be submitted to our office on or before April 1, 2021. If you have any questions or need assistance submitting a photo, please contact Kim Hudson at (423) 623-1285.

**SUPPORT
VICTIMS.
BUILD
TRUST.
ENGAGE
COMMUNITIES.**

**National Crime Victims'
Rights Week**

**April 18–24,
2021**



SAC CONFERENCE 2021

Envisioning the Future of Anti-Violence Work:
Intersectionality and Imagination as a Way Forward

**KEYNOTE
SPEAKER**

Tuesday, April 27, 2021



Farah Tanis
Co-Founder, Executive Director
Black Women's Blueprint

[Click here for more information on Farah!](#)

**Stay Connected
With #TeamTDOC!**

Follow Us:



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of-correction



/tndepartmentofcorrection



/TNDepartmentofCorrection

**SAVE THE
DATE**

"Prevention is our Super Power"

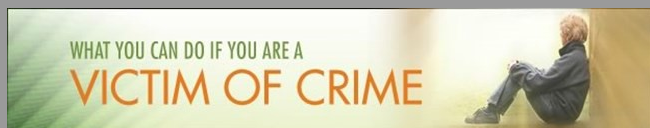
**RAPE PREVENTION
EDUCATION
INSTITUTE**

SUPER

**MAY 24, 2021 AND
MAY 25, 2021
9:00 AM TO 4:30 PM
CDT**

POP!

Virtual Event- Registration coming
Soon



WHAT VICTIMS CAN DO IF THEY'RE A

Tennessee Domestic Violence Hotline - 800-356-6767

National Domestic Violence Hotline - 800.799.SAFE

Battered Women's Justice Project - 800.903.0111

Mothers Against Drunk Driving - 877.MADD.HELP

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children - 800.843.5678

Tennessee Human Trafficking Hotline—1-855-558-6484

National Human Trafficking Hotline - 888.373.7888

Criminal Injuries Compensation: Corvel Corporation 866.960.6039



Tennessee Department of Correction

Victim Services Division
5th Floor Rachel Jackson Building
320 6th Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37243
Phone: 615-253-8145
Fax: 615-741-1055
Email: Victim.Notification@tn.gov

Tamika Dobbins
Victim Services Director
Tamika.Dobbins@tn.gov

Betsy Fletcher
Executive Secretary
Betsy.Fletcher@tn.gov